



Martin Elementary School

Home & School Connection



Beth Courtney, *Editor in Chief*
Lisa Plavin, *Copy Editor*

October, 2013, Vol. 8, Issue 2

Catherine Colavecchio, Principal

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents:

Happy fall! As September has quickly vanished, we head into the month of October. This month we have been busy with Student Picture Day, Fire Prevention Week, and beginning plans for Town Meetings and ECHOS.

Our annual grades K-3 Fire Prevention Assembly was on Wednesday, October 9th in which all students worked with firefighters from Manchester as well as had a chance to visit a fire truck!



Our staff has worked very hard on preparing for our first Town Meeting and ECHOS day for this upcoming month. Information was sent home already that grades K-5 will all be present at Town Meetings this year and the first public Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. Our first school wide ECHOS session will be held on Friday, October 25th. Many new and exciting choices are being offered to our students this year and we continue to enhance instruction with these wonderful school wide events!

We continue to work with our Martin Mustangs on the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) district wide program. Teachers have been working with all students on the specific rules in each area of the building that focus on being safe, respectful, and responsible. Our school based PBIS team continues to work diligently on the plans and procedures for the school community. A special presentation on the PBIS initiative and school based processes will take place at the November PTA meeting and more information will be in the November newsletter.

We were also very fortunate again this September to have the Cops and Kids programs working with all grade levels on specific topics appropriate for them. Officer Davis Patria from the Manchester Police Department worked with all teachers and students on topics such as stranger danger, community helpers, etc. Each grade level received one or two lessons at the beginning of the year working with this very beneficial program offered throughout the town.

As a reminder, please do not drop off your children at school before 8:50 a.m. We have no coverage outside before the time. The first bell of the day does not ring until 8:55 a.m., which is when we begin to have all students enter the building. All students need to be in their classrooms by 9:05 a.m. to be considered on time to school. We appreciate your support as we continue to view the safety of all children as the utmost priority.

Lunch waves for grades 1 and 3 have changed! The change will take effect on Tuesday, October 15th.

1st grade: 11:15 lunch/11:35-11:50 recess
3rd grade: 11:55 lunch/12:15-12:30 recess

ALSO:

- Monday, October 14th is Columbus Day.
No School
- Wednesday, October 16th is a 1/2 day.
1:17 p.m. dismissal

(Continued on page 2)

From the Principal's Desk, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, please remember that dismissal on regular school days is at 3:25 p.m. If parents or guardians are coming into the building to pick up their children at the end of the day before 3:25 p.m., please sign into the office to receive a visitor's badge.



For the safety of all, the policy will continue to be that students being picked up at the end of the day will meet parents and/or guardians directly outside the front door with school staff present. Please let me know if you have any specific questions or concerns.

We look forward to a busy and exciting fall! As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments. Research indicates the most successful students are those in which parents and school staff are actively involved in communicating and working together.

I hope you are enjoying this fall season with your children and we look forward to seeing many of you soon!

**MARTIN MUSTANGS ARE
SAFE,
RESPECTFUL,
RESPONSIBLE!**



If your child is going to be late to school, a parent or guardian **is required** to bring the child into the office and sign them in to the building.

Please note that notices are going home monthly from the Food Services Department. If your child has an overdue balance due for lunches, the amount needs to be paid as quickly as possible.

Please call Food Services at 860-647-3461 with any questions.



Please make sure to send in a note to your child's teacher if your child is going home by a different route than the usual manner. If we do not receive a note or phone call, children will continue to go home on the bus or their daily routine.



This will continue to ensure the safety of all students. Thank you!

Please make sure children continue to wear sneakers to school on gym days.



No Heely sneakers are permitted on these days for safety. Thank you!

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call at any time on the absentee line at (860) 647-3365.

Please call daily and be as specific as possible with the information (how high the fever, etc.) on your child's **illness**. This message machine is on at all times, and all absences are monitored in the morning by office staff.





All art students in Mrs. Ruzzo's class will be transitioning from drawing to painting this month, so please make sure on art days students wear clothes that they can get dirty just in case.

Kindergarten is working on shapes and color mixing this month.

First graders are finishing up their beautiful self portraits which will be hanging in the hallway outside of the art room.

Second graders will soon be taking home fall birch tree paintings. The goal for that project was to add texture to the trees using lines and to learn the resist technique with masking tape.

Fourth and fifth grade artists will be learning color theory by painting pumpkins from life and working on Fire Prevention for the town's poster contest.



Below are all of the students who participated in the Governor's Challenge summer reading and/or completed their summer math packet!

Madelyn Balthazrr
Murcer Converse
Aine Corbett-Cousins
Lachlan Corbett-Cousins
Omar Hammami
Cadie Lemoine
Jubilee Machnik
Silas Maynes
Clara Covill
Nicholas Filiault
Kylie Gilbert
Grace Grasso
Lily Mraz
Aiden Melesko
Skylovia Franck
Callista Asante
Tuan Phung
Gissella Vargas
Sharwan Dilshad
Logan Kwasnicki
Myleigh Rago
Everett Lythgoe
Lauren Lee
Shirley Wu
Hailey Axiak
Chase Parker
Jason Dufresne
Kevin Benson
Sabrina Bowes
Camryn Douglas
Mia Hernandez

Keegan Sears
Dina Watson
Branna Booth
Anthony Caro
Charlotte Covill
Mia Gilbert
Susan Hammami
Justus Maynes
Joseph Rose
Michael Balthazrr
Evelyn Marineau
Nicholas Colon
Avery Mercier
Caleb Camp
Erika Rozek
Jackson Converse
Leah Cunningham
Angelina Caro
Liliana Hernandez
Benjamin Lemoine
Selina Sebadduka
Sam Jo
Kyan Colon
Brendan Norris
Syeanna Armstrong
Gemma Ramsey
Roy Sianez
Lilyannah Giddings
Olivia Ramsdell
Cole Huyler
Miana Quinonez

Angelisse Vazquez
Robby Jose
Nicholas Lea
Brett Eagleson
Jaheim Wiggins
Michelle LaFarque
Anthony Michaud
Avery Kovalski
Alyssa Eisele
Rei Liburd
Zane Ramsey
Leah Villar
Katherine Mohr
Isabella Mraz
Hunter Strong
Sonia Sebadduka
Lordina Asante
Savannah Kwasnicki
Aaron Lemoine
Adrian Parker
Jason Skoog
Jayden Nyanzi
Delaney Kissman
Kamili Riera
Titia Watson
Jacob Cunningham
Sajit Hasan
Sophia Dillon
Victoria Resto
Jalisa Futrell
Lexi Rose

Jacob Mercier
Mairyn Melesko
Laxmi Vobbineni
Madison Deshaies
Liya Jose
Anabelle Bowes
Kayla Grasso
Owen Duffy
Alicia Johnson
Khristinn Saldivar
Rachel Doherty
Nathan Stratton
Ayannia Gwynn
Ian Lythgoe
Izabella Ricciardi
Harrison Blum
Jumaane Gilbert
Caleb Briggs
Madison Norris
Jayden Colon
Suzanne Formosa
Tyler Khan
Camron Butler
Linnea Camp
Jerome Rosa
Annabelle Watson
Claire Jo
Samuel Hedlund
Shelby Strong
Ryan Skoog



October 2013

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Whiton | Middle School Night 6-8:30pm Cheney | make @ mpl 3-4:30pm Cheney* Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Cheney | Preschool Playgroup 9am-3pm Whiton 10am-12pm Cheney | Drop-In Storytime 10:30am Cheney R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) 1-3pm Cheney** |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Whiton | Middle School Night 6-8:30pm Cheney | make @ mpl 3-4:30pm Cheney* Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Cheney | Preschool Playgroup 9am-3pm Whiton 10am-12pm Cheney | Drop-In Storytime 10:30am Cheney Read to Xiahna 2-3pm Cheney** |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | Library Closed for Columbus Day | Leila & the Nutmegs 3:45pm Cheney** Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Whiton | Middle School Night 6-8:30pm Cheney | make @ mpl 3-4:30pm Cheney* Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Cheney | Preschool Playgroup 9am-3pm Whiton 10am-12pm Cheney | Drop-In Storytime 10:30am Cheney |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Cheney Open 1-5pm | | Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Whiton | Middle School Night 6-8:30pm Cheney | make @ mpl 3-4:30pm Cheney* Pajama Storytime 6:30pm Cheney | Preschool Playgroup 9am-3pm Whiton 10am-12pm Cheney | Pumpkins Drop-In Storytime 10:30am Cheney Silkworms 2:30pm Cheney** Storytime Session Ends |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| Cheney Open 1-5pm | Storytime Sign-up Manchester residents | | Storytime Sign-up non-residents Middle School Fancy Dress Party 6-8:30pm Cheney | make @ mpl 3-4:30pm Cheney* | *make is a program for our patrons in middle and high school. | **Please register for these programs. |
| | | | | | | |

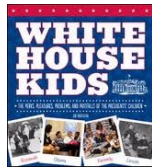
Library/Media Center: Mrs. Plavin

A good library book collection is never static. We strive to match our collection to the needs of the curriculum and the reading interests of our students.

Since the start of the school year, we have added 121 new books and, of course, weeded out outdated materials and those that are in poor condition.

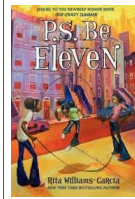
Some of our new non-fiction titles include: *Everything Money*, *Seeing Symmetry*, *Brass Instruments*, *Jujitsu* and *World War II Spies*. We've added joke books, animal books, poetry, biographies of sports figures and interactive history books.

My favorite new book is called *White House Kids: the perks, pleasures, problems, and pratfalls of the Presidents' children* and is a wonderful blend of photographs, narrative, drawings, quotes and anecdotes. Lynda Bird Johnson summed it up pretty well when she said, "Don't do anything you wouldn't mind seeing on the front page of the newspaper."



Our fiction collection additions include picture books, easy readers and longer chapter books.

Intriguing new titles include: *The Very Inappropriate Word*, *P.S. Be Eleven*, *Diary of a Worm*:



Teacher's Pet, *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *How I Survived Bullies, Broccoli, and Snake Hill*.

Our students are avid readers of series and we've added the latest Chet Gecko, Flat Stanley, Ruby Redfort, and Big Nate. We've got sequels and trilogies and Nutmeg books galore.

I highly recommend the slim but powerful book *Inside out and Back Again*, the poignant story of a child refugee from Vietnam told in lyrical verse. My student reviewers also rate this book very highly.



Reading Specialist: Ms. Bill

On Monday, October 7th, we recognized all the students at Martin School who read over the summer and submitted a reading log through the Manchester Public Library or to the school.

A total of 1,677 books were read by 84 students who participated in the program. We congratulate all these students and thank parents for their support and encouragement of reading.



MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

It is the policy of Manchester Public Schools that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program, including educational and employment, because of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, mental retardation or past/present history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability.

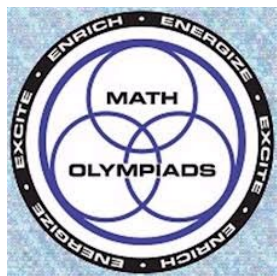
The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3595

Numeracy Coach: Mrs. Ozmun

We are so proud to have been able to recognize 89 students who completed the 2013 Manchester Public Schools Summer Math Packet! Congratulations to all of those students!

Some exciting news for our Martin fourth and fifth grade students – notices and permission slips are



being sent home to invite interested students to participate in the nationally recognized Math Olympiads math contest.

This wonderful and fun opportunity allows students to practice challenging mathematical problem solving using higher order thinking skills, teamwork and the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice connected with the Common Core State Standards.

We look forward to our first meeting on October 22, and wish Martin Math Olympiads good luck in this fun and challenging competition!

A math facts reminder for all grade levels – please remember to include ongoing math fact practice at home. Students can use dice, playing cards, flash cards, as well as visit our Manchester K – 8 Resource Page for access to a multitude of websites where they can practice math fact fluency. Students will experience increased success in solving math problems when they are confident in knowing these facts. Thank you for your support!

K – 12 Standards for Mathematical Practice

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

MATH



**keeps you ahead
of the game**

PTA News

The New PTA Board for the 2013-14 School Year:

Co-Presidents: Mrs. Kim Mercier and
Mrs. Sherry Norris

Vice President: Mrs. Michelle Balthazrr

Secretary: Mrs. Mary Beth Dufresne

Treasurer: Mrs. Brittany Covill

Please consider joining the PTA this year!

Please contact the school office for further information at (860) 647-3367.

PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]

Physical Education: Mrs. Bonneau



Students in grades three through five have been learning about four of the five components of physical fitness to help them see what the fitness test is all about. What better way to work on cardio than signing up for the annual Frank Rizza Cross Country Challenge being held on Saturday, October 19th?



The CCC is a race that takes place at Manchester High School and every elementary school in town participates.

Grades kindergarten and one participate in a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile run while grades three, four and five participate in a one mile run that includes one killer hill.

The event is free and students who participate get a free tee-shirt that says "Martin" on the back and a ribbon of participation. Any runner that places 1st through 15th in their

race gets a medal. Depending on how our team does in a particular race, we could win a trophy to add to our trophy case.



Permission slips for this event went home last week. If your child wants to participate, please send the bottom half of the form back to me before Friday October 18th. You can sign up the day of the race if necessary, but I do suggest getting there early as this is always a packed event!

I hope to see many of my young friends there . . . Go Mustangs!

Kindergarten News: Mrs. Bride and Mrs. Eagleson

Wow! The kindergarten students are working on learning our classroom and school wide expectations. As we help them to learn the routines, we use the following positive vocabulary: "walking feet", "quiet voices", "keep hands and feet to yourself", "stay in your own bubble space", and "a still body". Please review this vocabulary at home with your child so that they will be able to fully engage in their learning.

Students are learning how to work at their reading centers. We have introduced Big Books, Independent Reading, Star Reader and Reading with the Teacher. Students must work quietly and independently when they are not in the Teacher center. We are working on increasing their reading stamina. We are up to eight minutes and our goal is 10 minute centers! We are so proud of them!



In math, we have finished our exploration and investigation of sorting. Students are learning to explain their mathematical thinking by telling the sorting rule. We are beginning our discovery of numbers 0 – 10.

We are excited to see all of the learning that is taking place in our classroom community!

First Grade News: Mrs. Bloomquist, Ms. Leng and Mrs. Knight

We are very busy here in first grade here at Martin School! We have begun our morning Literacy rotations, participating in: reader's response, independent reading, and buddy reading. Throughout the day we have been learning about journal writing and reinforcing the thought that, "If you think it, you can write it." So many wonderful authors we have!



In math, we have been studying the ten array, learning that using the terms "less than ten" and "more than ten", we no longer have to count each square to achieve our solution. Samples of this have been sent home in our homework and will continue to be revisited as we dive deeper and deeper into the Common Core.

Our first E.C.H.O.S. experience is on its way! Students have completed an interest survey and are being placed accordingly by the H.O.T. School Committee. This will be an exciting venture and give an opportunity for children to work cross-grade level with other Martin School peers.



As a gentle reminder to families of students struggling with shoe tying ... We ask that you please practice this skill at home. Teachers, administration, and support staff are running out of hands to keep up with the shoe tying demand! Thank you so much.

Second Grade News: Mrs. Vincens, Mrs. Bordeaux and Mrs. Whidden

In math, students are working on 2-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We continue to practice the math facts.

In our reading, we are concentrating on identifying character traits and how they help us to better understand the story.

Students have also been busy writing poems about the Fall using their senses. Below is an example of one student's poem:

Fall

I smell fresh crisp air when I go outside.
I feel the bumpy pumpkin when I draw on it.
I see colorful leaves as they float down by the window.
I hear geese honking as they fly south.
I taste sweet apple pie at my house.



By, Emily

The school district's policy of nondiscrimination must be prominently included in each student handbook, bulletin, catalog, booklet, announcement, brochure, student application form or other publication distributed to students, potential students, parents, and any other persons benefiting from the school district's activities and programs. The name and contact information (office address, telephone number, fax number, email address) of the Title IX Coordinator must also be included in this announcement.

Title IX Notice

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Manchester's Title IX coordinator is: Terri Smith, Manchester Public Schools, 45 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042, Phone: 860-647-3595, Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.

3rd Grade News: Mrs. Dunklee and Mrs. Kelsey

Third grade is a busy place to be! We have so much going on that it's easiest to tell you by listing each subject area:

Math: Students are learning multiplication and division. We have made our times table and built multiplication houses. We continue to work on our math facts and benefit greatly from continued practice at home.

Language Arts: Students are learning how to be independent learners through the use of "The Daily 5." This is a series of rotations that include guided reading, independent reading, reader's response, making words, and grammar skills. Also, creative writing has begun and we are describing, describing, describing!

Science: Students are studying plant and animal habitats and adaptations. We have explored the parts of plants and are in the process of conducting our own investigations. We have grown bean plants from seed and are watching how they survive with limited sunlight. We can't wait to see what will happen.



Social Studies: We begin the year with an examination of several books written about Christopher Columbus. We have created journals and will be using them to summarize one of the stories entitled, *Pedro's Journal*.



Thank you all for your continued support at home. It shows!!

October Fun Facts

Basic Facts

October comes from the Latin word octo which means eight. In ancient Rome, October was the eighth month of the year. When the Gregorian calendar was adopted, it became the tenth month of the year. It is one of the seven months with 31 days.

Birthstone

The birthstones for October are opal and tourmaline. Opals are considered to be the traditional birthstone.

Flower

The flower for the month of October is the calendula. Another name for calendula is pot marigold. They are easy to grow and popular in gardens. Colors range from pale yellow to deep orange.

Astrological Signs

Libra and Scorpio are the astrological signs for October. Birthdays from October 1st through the 22nd fall under the sign of Libra. October 23rd through the 31st birthdays fall under the sign of Scorpio.

October Holidays and Observances

The most well known holiday of the month is Halloween, October 31st.

Columbus Day is on October 12th. This is the date Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492.

Historic Events in October

Many major events happened during the tenth month of the year:

The first transcontinental telegraph message was sent on October 24, 1861.

President Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor on October 28, 1886.

The stock market crash known as Black Tuesday occurred on October 29, 1929. The crash made world-wide news and marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

The San Francisco earthquake occurred on October 17, 1989. It registered 7.1 on the Richter scale

Fourth Grade News: Mrs. Inkel, Ms. Tamsin and Mrs. King

Grade 4 reading assessments help us to learn the strengths and weaknesses of all our students. The one common thread is that students need to constantly be reading and thinking about what they read.

We have been working on comprehension in fiction. You will hear terms like “check for understanding” and “stopping after reading a paragraph” to see if your child can understand what they have read.

At home be sure to take time to read with your student and check to see if their understanding matches what they have read. Grade 4 students are social learners and improve with positive parental feedback.



In mathematics, we are currently finishing up on our unit in place value. Students are rounding numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, thousand,

ten-thousand, and hundred-thousand.

In addition, students need to refresh their knowledge of multiplication facts to mastery. Be sure they practice every night.

In social studies we are reviewing continents and oceans which will lead us to a further study of landforms across the USA.

The science unit on ecosystems is richly steeped in nonfiction reading skills. Student will read and reread to practice strategies for understanding. Then students must be able to use this knowledge from nonfiction text to demonstrate their learning.



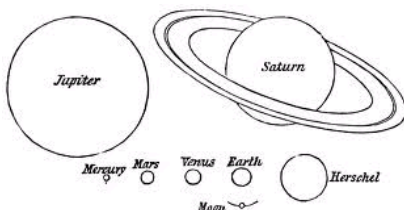
Fifth Grade News: Ms. Pietkevich and Ms. Eichenauer

In math, fifth graders have moved on to Unit 2 which allows us to explore addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with multi-digit numbers (including decimals!)

The students have learned three new methods of multiplication: Lattice, Base Ten Blocks, and Partial Products.

Ask your students to show you what they have learned!

In science, we are learning about the Earth, Moon and Sun. We have spent time working together to create our own version of a Bill Nye Video! The kids really enjoyed it and worked hard to explain the process of the sun.



For language arts, students have been flying through our books! We are continuing to work on reading our “just right” books and focusing on answering comprehension questions verbally and in written form.



In social studies, the fifth graders are learning about the Vikings and the early ages of exploration.

We have been exploring various websites and maps to help us look at Vikings!